provide more employment to the skilled and educated unemployed youth in the State?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRAN NAIDU: (a) Number of youths trained in the State of Punjab under TRYSEM during the year 1995-96 is 2670.

(b) Physical targets are fixed by the State Government on a year to year basis and financial allocation is fixed by the Central Government on the basis of poverty incidence prevailing in the State, also on year to year basis. However, allocation of fund for Punjab under TRYSEM during the year 1996-97 is as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Recurring expenses		Strengthening of training infrastrucure	
Central Allocation	State Allocation	Central Allocation	State Allocation
21.50	21.50	7.00	7.00

(c) To create more employment opportunities for the poor youth, this Ministry is implementing TRYSEM Scheme. Under this scheme technical skills are imparted to poor rural youth to enable them to take up self/wage employment activities in the broad fields of agriculture and allied sectors, services and industries. Such youth are also provided loans/subsidy under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Rencetly, under this programme, educated (read upto class VIII) unemployed rural youth belonging to 'Below Poverty Line' families are entitled to receive an enhanced subsidy amount of Rs. 7500/- or 50% of the Project cost, whichever is less, for taking up economic enterprises a a means of self-employment.

राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों पर पुल-पुलियों की खराब स्थिति

31. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1995 तक राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों पर कितने पुल-पुलियों के खराब और कितने पुल-पुलियों को बहुत ही खराब स्थिति में पाया गया है,

(ख) वर्ष 1991-92 से 1994-95 तक प्रति वर्ष कितने खराब और बहुत ही खराब स्थिति वाले पुल-पुलियों का मरम्मत और पुनर्निर्माण कार्य कराया गया है; और

(ग) गंभीर रूप से खराब हो चुके पुल और पुलियों का मार्ग-वार ब्यौरा क्या है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी० जी० वेंकटरमन: (क) से (ग) राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों पर अनेक पुल और पुलियां हैं। पिछले सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार, राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों पर 559 पुल विपद्ग्रस्त थे। उनकी स्थिति और निधियों की उपलब्धता के आधार पर चरणबद्ध रूप में विपद्ग्रस्त पुल और पुलियों की मरम्मत की जाती है।

Relations with Sri Lanka

32. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish better relations with Sri Lanka;

(b) whether Sri Lankan Government also wants to improve its friendly ties with India; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India attaches great importance to maintaining close and cordial relations with Sri Lanka. Bilateral relations between the two countries continue to be friendly and close and are marked by an increasing spirit of mutual understanding.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on a goodwill visit to India from June 20—22 reiterated that it is the policy of the Government of Sri Lanka to promote very close, friendly and cooperative relations with India.

During the visit of the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, who was the first foreign dignitary received by this Government, both sides agreed that steps would be taken to convene the Indo-SL Joint Commission later this year.

High Rate of Accidental Deaths in Delhi

33. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidental deaths on the roads of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad, Kanpur and Bangalore during the last three years uptill Now;

(b) the reasons for high rate of accidental deaths in Delhi;

(c) the measures contemplated for lessening the burden on the roads in Delhi;

(d) the progress made with regard to introduction of alternative mode of transport in Delhi; and

(e) the number of persons killed by Redline/Blueline/DTC/other vehicles in Delhi in the last three years uptil now?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Proper Maintenance of National Waterways

34. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Waterways are not being maintained properly; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI G. VENKATRMAN): (a) The National Waterways are being maintained and improved by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in a phased manner depending on the availability of resources, physical capabilities and other limitations. Ongoing waterway maintenance activities include regular surveys, dredging, bandalling, channel marking and pilotage. In addition, terminal facilities are provided at some locations.

(b) The IWAI have formulated a detailed Action Plan for development of Inland Waterways in the country for implementation on short term (during 8th Five Year plan period) and long term (beyond 8th Five Year Plan) basis. Under the short term action plan, it is proposed to develop the National Waterways No. 1 and 2 for a navigable channel with 2.00 mtrs. depth. Both these waterways are targetted to remain open for IWT for at least 300 days a year. In Waterway No. 3, under short term action plan, the waterway is planned for a navigable depth of 2.00 meters. It is also planned to provide necessary infrastructural facilities like terminals, navigational aids, bank protection etc. Under the long term action plan, it is proposed to develop the existing wateways No. 1 and 2 for navigation of larger vessels by providing 3 meters depth and larger channel width and to provide mechanised terminals and night navigational facilities based on cargo offering. Similarly, in National Waterway No. 3, it is proposed to depend the channel further in the entire National Waterway with night navigational facilities and mechanised terminals.

भारतीय दूतावासों में हिंदी अधिकारी

35. **श्री अजीत जोगी:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत एक वर्ष के दौरान किन-किन भारतीय दूतावासों में हिन्दी अधिकारियों के पदों का सृजन किया गया है;

(ख) किन-किन दूतावासों में कितने-कितने पद पहले से ही विद्यमान हैं तथा उन भारतीय दूतावासों के नाम क्या है, जहां सरकारी काम हिन्दी में किया जाता है; और